



News Release

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2016 Spring Mushroom Season Permits Available

Yreka, CA. Spring rains have arrived and with them mushroom season has begun. Many kinds of edible mushrooms grow in Siskiyou County, including morels, chanterelles, shaggy mane, puffballs, boletes, and oyster mushrooms. The USDA Forest Service welcomes mushroom collecting on the Klamath National Forest, and offers some tips and information.

Marla Knight, Forest Botanist for the Klamath National Forest, emphasizes caution when foraging for mushrooms. "Mushrooms can be difficult to identify properly. Some poisonous mushrooms occur in our area, such as death cap. They can be hard to distinguish from edible species. If in doubt, do not consume any wild mushrooms. Learn from experienced mushroom collectors and use a guide book to learn what is safe and what is not."

"Please also take safety precautions when venturing out in the woods. Consider weather and road conditions before travelling. Avoid burned areas with many dead trees, especially during high winds. Let someone know where you intend on picking and remember that cell phone coverage is limited in many areas of the forest. Bring a free Klamath National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map so you know what roads are open to vehicles and where they are."

Mushroom collecting on the Klamath National Forest requires a permit. Forest Service offices in Happy Camp and Macdoel sell three different mushroom permits. A \$20 permit allows up to eight gallons of mushrooms, collected over four consecutive days. A \$50 permit allows up to 20 gallons, collected over 30 consecutive days. Additional days may be purchased for \$5 a day. A \$100 season permit allows up to 40 gallons for the season. If you reach your gallon limit you can buy another permit. Each permit is only valid for collecting mushrooms from National Forest land within either the Happy Camp/Oak Knoll Ranger District or the Goosenest Ranger District. Separate permits are required for the fall mushroom season.

Mushroom permits may be obtained weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at Forest Service offices in Happy Camp (63822 Highway 96) and Macdoel (37805 Highway 97). Permits are not available in Yreka or Fort Jones.

In order to ensure the sustainability of spring mushroom harvest, each permit has additional conditions and restrictions intended to regulate harvest. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to read and understand those conditions.

Additional information regarding mushroom harvesting, camping or fire restrictions is available by calling the Goosenest Ranger District, at (530) 398-4391 or the Happy Camp Ranger District at (530) 493-2243.

For more information on the Klamath National Forest go to:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath>.

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